

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

January 26, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR

Ms. Nancy Bearg Dyke
Assistant to the Vice President
for National Security Affairs

Mr. L. Paul Bremer III
Executive Secretary
Department of State

Maj Gen Carl R. Smith
Military Assistant to the
Secretary of Defense

Executive Secretary
Central Intelligence Agency

Mr. William Schneider, Jr.
Associate Director, National Security
and International Affairs
Office of Management and Budget

Col Charles P. Stebbins
Executive Assistant to the
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Mr. Joseph Presel
Executive Secretary
Arms Control and Disarmament Agency

Mr. A. B. Virkler Legate
Executive Officer to the
Administrator, National Aeronautics
and Space Administration

SUBJECT: Unclassified Version of NSDD-8

Attached is an unclassified version of the NSDD-8 which can be
used for public release as long as it is not specifically
associated with the NSDD.

Michael O. Wheeler
Michael O. Wheeler
Staff Secretary

Attachment
Unclassified Version of NSDD-8

The United States recognizes the importance of its space programs in meeting a broad range of commercial, civil, and national security needs, and is committed to a vigorous effort that will ensure leadership in these areas.

The Space Transportation System is a vital element in meeting these needs, and is a national program requiring sustained commitments by all departments and agencies.

The United States will:

- o continue to develop the Space Transportation System through the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in cooperation with the Department of Defense to service all authorized space users.

- o utilize the Space Transportation System as the primary space launch system for military and civil government missions.

- o transition to the Shuttle as expeditiously as practical.

In accomplishing these objectives the National Aeronautics Space Administration will assure the Shuttle's utility to the civil government and non-government users, while the Department of Defense will assure its utility to national security missions.

Major changes to the Space Transportation System's capabilities would require Presidential approval.

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